

## II. Amendments to the Claims:

In response to the Office Action of January 25, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

5

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for securing a box cover to a meter box, said apparatus comprising:

a clamping member, ~~an engagement member~~, wherein said clamping member

10     ~~engagement member~~ further comprises a body portion, a clamp comprising a  
surrounding member which surrounds at least a part of said body portion wherein said  
surrounding member comprises at least one engagement surface, a clamp actuating  
member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means; and  
a lock housing having a second securing means.

15

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp further comprises opposed, substantially parallel walls on which a pivoting member is disposed.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first securing means further  
20 comprises a portion of said fastening shelf through which an aperture has been formed.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second securing means comprises a portion of said lock housing through which an aperture has been formed.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of either of claims 3 or 4, wherein each of said apertures ~~is~~ are ~~an~~ approximately cylindrical ~~aperture~~ apertures.
- 5     6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plunger type fastener.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said plunger type fastener further comprises a retaining member.
- 10     8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of an ~~said~~ engagement member on said ~~a~~ body portion of said clamping member.
- 15     9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said clamp actuating member is captured between said opposed, substantially parallel walls of said clamp when said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured position.
- 20     10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein one end of said clamp actuating member receives an input force and rotates about an axis established by disposition of said engagement member disposed on said clamping member, and then

translates a mechanical force to an opposite end of said clamp actuating member that is greater than the input force.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp actuating member has a tactile feedback indicator for indicating when said clamp actuating member has been fully rotated into a secure position.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp is disposed between said clamp actuating member and said fastening shelf.

10

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp further comprises a stopping member for stopping a rotational sweep of said clamp actuating member after said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured position.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp imparts a spring force that holds said clamp actuating member in a fully secured position.

15. (Currently amended) A method for securing a box cover to a meter box, said method comprising:

20 disposing a clamping member over a wall portion of said meter box, ~~disposing an~~

~~engagement member on a body portion of said clamping member~~, wherein said clamping member comprises a body portion, a clamp comprising a surrounding member which surrounds at least a part of said body portion wherein said surrounding member comprises at least one engagement surface, a clamp actuating member, and a

5 fastening shelf having a first securing means;

disposing a lock housing in functional cooperation with said clamping member, wherein said lock housing comprises a second securing means; and

securing said clamping member using said lock housing.

10 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a fastening shelf so that said first securing means comprises a body portion of said fastening shelf through which an aperture has been formed.

15 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising disposing a lock housing so that said second securing means comprises said a lock housing through which an aperture has been formed.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising disposing a fastening shelf and said a lock housing so that said first securing means and said second

20 securing means comprise approximately cylindrical apertures.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a plunger type fastener.

5 20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising disposing a plunger type fastener, and then securing said plunger type fastener by means of a retaining member.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising rotating said clamp actuating member about a rotational axis established by disposition of an ~~said~~  
10 engagement member disposed on said body portion of said clamping member.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
delivering an input force to one end of said clamp actuating member so that said clamp  
actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of said  
15 engagement member on said clamping member; and  
translating said input force into a mechanical clamping force that is greater than the input  
force.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a clamp actuating member having a tactile feedback indicator to indicate when said clamp actuating member has been fully rotated into a secure position.

- 5    24. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing said clamp between said clamp actuating member and said fastening shelf.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising disposing a clamp having a stopping member, wherein said stopping member stops a rotational sweep of said clamp  
10    actuating member after said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured position.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising disposing a clamp imparting a spring force that holds said clamp actuating member in a fully secured position.

15

27. (Cancelled)